

Title: SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR REMOTE VIEWING OF PATIENT IMAGES

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This application is a Cont. of 10/029,817 filed 12/13/2001 now U.S. Pat 6,798,533 which is a Cont. of 09/319,956 filed 12/23/1998 now U.S. Pat 608,05), of a computer program listing printout of over ten pages. G,381,029.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Technical Field

[0001] The present invention relates, generally, to systems and methods for remote viewing and, more particularly, to a password-protected system which acquires and transmits patient images to a server for remote access via the Internet.

Background Invention

[0002] A medical facility typically requires physician input to determine the most appropriate medical care for the patient. However, requiring a physician to be present 24 hours a day at the medical facility to examine the patient, or a radiological image of the patient, may be inefficient and expensive. Particularly, a medical facility may not have the financial resources or patient volume to support a physician on site at all times; the medical facility may be located in a remote location; or a town may not have a sufficient number of physicians available to be located at each medical facility at all times of the day. As such, when a patient requires medical attention, an experienced physician may not be readily available at a particular medical facility.

[0003] Accordingly, a system is needed which acquires an image of a patient and transmits the image to a remote location for viewing and analysis by an experienced physician. While prior art teleradiology systems exist which establish a direct communication link to a remote location and transmit radiological images to the